# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
DECLINE IN CULTIVABLE LAND
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there is decline in cultivable land in the country;

(b) whether the use of cultivable land for other purposes is likely to be completely banned; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made for expansion of cultivable land?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir. The cultivable land consisting of net sown area, fallow land, culturable waste land and area under miscellaneous tree crops, has remained constant at the level of 183.6 Million hectares during the years from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(b) & (c): Land is a State subject and, therefore, a 19-Point National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation. One of the points in NLPO stresses on the need to control the diversion of cultivable land for other purposes. Government of India have taken steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to develop the degraded lands for putting them into productive use through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR); Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Reclamation of Alkali Soil (Usar land) and Externally Aided Projects.